

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. An information collection and distribution system for
collecting and distributing information between a server and
clients which are connected to a network,

5 wherein the server transmits communication blocks
including at least addresses and pieces of distribution
information of the plurality of clients to one client of the
plurality of clients through said network;

each client out of said plurality of clients obtains the
10 from the communication blocks, and circulates the
communication blocks in which distribution results are set to
a client next in the order on the basis of the addresses;

a final client which has received the pieces of
distribution information last out of said plurality of clients
15 transmits the communication block to said one client; and

said one client relays the communication block
transmitted from said final client to said server.

2. The information collection and distribution system
20 according to claim 1, wherein said server recognizes a client
which fails in distribution on the basis of the distribution
result set in the communication block transmitted from said
one client, and re-transmits the communication block to said
failed client.

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3. The information collection and distribution system according to claim 1, wherein each client other than said one client and said final client transmits the communication block to said one client as intermediate notification when a next client as the circulation destination is in a stop state, and
5 said one client relays the communication block transmitted from said client to said server.

4. The information collection and distribution system according to claim 1, wherein said one client partitions all
10 the other clients into a plurality of groups and transmits a communication block to one client in each of the groups;

one client in each of the groups obtains the distribution information from the communication block and circulates a
15 communication block in which a distribution result is set to the next client in the group on the basis of an address;

a final client of a circulation destination in each of the groups transmits the communication block to said one client that has partitioned the clients into groups; and

20 said one client that has partitioned the clients into groups relays the communication block transmitted from said final client of each circulation destination to said server.

5. An information collection and distribution system for collecting and distributing information between a server and clients which are connected to a network,

wherein said server transmits communication blocks including at least addresses of the plurality of clients to one client of the plurality of clients through the network;

each client out of said plurality of clients sets the pieces of collection information in the communication blocks and circulates the communication blocks in which collection results are set to a client next in the order on the basis of the addresses;

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a final client which has received the pieces of distribution information last out of said plurality of clients transmits the communication block to said one client; and

15 said one client relays the communication block transmitted from said final client as one communication block to said server.

6. The information collection and distribution system according to claim 5, wherein said server recognizes a client which fails in collection on the basis of the collection result set in the communication block transmitted from said one client, and re-transmits the communication block to said failed client.

7. The information collection and distribution system according to claim 5, wherein each client other than said one client and said final client transmits the communication block to said one client as intermediate notification when a next client as the circulation destination is in a stop state, and

said one client relays the communication block transmitted from said client to said server.

8. The information collection and distribution system according to claim 5, wherein said one client partitions all the other clients into a plurality of groups and transmits a communication block to one client in each of the groups;

one client in each of the groups obtains the distribution information from the communication block and circulates a communication block in which a distribution result is set to the next client in the group on the basis of an address;

a final client of a circulation destination in each of the groups transmits the communication block to said one client that has partitioned the clients into groups; and

said one client that has partitioned the clients into groups relays the communication block transmitted from said final client of each circulation destination to said server.